In The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgically implantable adjustable ring for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having a closure system including a first and a second end parts, the open ring body being designed to be closed around the tubular organ;

the closure system constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop; and

the first end part including a first reinforcement flange~~structure~~ and a sleeve having a first and a second portions, the sleeve being designed to receive the second end part, the sleeve being disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the direction of the first end part, the second part comprising a locking protrusion adapted to engage an aperture in the sleeve, thereby securing the ring in a closed position.

2. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 1, wherein the second portion of the sleeve ~~contains~~ defines the aperture, and wherein the second portion of the sleeve partially overlaps the second part when the ring is in the closed position.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A surgically implantable adjustable ring for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having closure system including a first and a second end parts, the open ring body being designed to be closed around the tubular organ;

the closure system constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop; and

the first end part including a first reinforcement flange and a sleeve having a first and a second portions, the sleeve being designed to receive the second end part and having a tab extending from the second portion, the sleeve being disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the direction of the first end part, the second part comprising a locking protrusion adapted to engage an aperture in the sleeve, thereby securing the ring in a closed position;

wherein the tab comprises a portion more flexible than the remaining portion of the tab, the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the aperture, the flexible portion preventing an accidental opening of the closure system after the adjustable ring is disposed around the tubular organ.

6. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 5, wherein said flexible portion comprises an opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The adjustable ring according to claim 1~~claim 2~~, wherein the first reinforcement ~~structure comprises a~~ flange is disposed transversally to the external perimeter of the ring.

8. (New) The adjustable ring according to claim 1 further comprising a second reinforcement flange adjacent the aperture.

9. (New) The adjustable ring according to claim 1 wherein the is made of a biocompatible elastomeric material.

10. (New) The adjustable ring according to claim 5 wherein the first reinforcement flange is disposed transversally to the external perimeter of the ring.

11. (New) The adjustable ring according to claim 5 further comprising a second reinforcement flange adjacent the aperture.

12. (New) The adjustable ring according to claim 11 wherein the ring is made of a biocompatible elastomeric material.

13. (New) A closure system comprising:

an open ring body;

a first end part including:

a sleeve having a first portion;

a second portion defining an aperture; and

a third portion defining a tab hole and including a tab, the second portion positioned between the first and third portions; and

one or more reinforcement flanges positioned at one or more of the first, second and third portions; and

a second end part, the first and second end parts positioned at opposite ends of the ring body;

14. (New) The closure system according to claim 13 wherein the second end part and at least one of the portions of the first end part are substantially perpendicular to one another, and the second end part includes a locking protrusion engageable with the aperture defined by the second portion.

15. (New) The closure system according to claim 13 wherein the tab hole has adjacent sides and a side reinforcement flange is positioned at each of the adjacent sides.

16. (New) The closure system according to claim 13 wherein a first reinforcement flange is positioned at the first portion of the sleeve.

17. (New) The closure system according to claim 13 wherein a second reinforcement flange is positioned at the second portion of the sleeve adjacent the aperture.

18. (New) The closure system according to claim 13 further comprising adjusting means to adjust the ring body diameter.

19. (New) The closure system according to claim 18 wherein the adjusting means is a wire.

20. (New) The closure system of claim 13 wherein the tab is made of a flexible material.

21. (New) The closure system of claim 20 wherein the tab comprises a portion more flexible than the remaining portion of the tab, the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the aperture.